

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 05239

EXDIS

FOR EUR/RPM ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR BENNETT FROM STREATOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON

1. TO ASSIST IN YOUR CONSULTATIONS WE POUCHED BRIEFING MATERIAL ON JUNE 7 (REGISTRY NO. 2884956) AND JUNE 9 (REGISTRY NO. 2884406). JUNE 7 MATERIAL INCLUDES DISCUSSION POINTS ON SECRETARIAL SITUATION AND COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT AT MISSION, CCMS, AND THE NATO SCIENCE BUDGET. JUNE 9 PACKAGE SUGGESTS POINTS ON STANDARDIZATION/INTEROPERABILITY, THE STATUS OF DEFENSE INITIATIVES AND FOLLOW-UP MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION, THE 1978 NAC SUMMIT AND MBFR. PLEASE ADVISE IF MATERIAL HAS NOT ARRIVED AND WE WILL CABLE SUMMARIES.

2. ADDITIONALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO ALERT YOU TO THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) EAST-WEST STUDY: IN A BRIEF MEETING ON JUNE 8, THE COUNCIL TASKED THE SPC TO BEGIN ITS WORK ON THE ALLIANCE STUDY OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. THE SPC IS NOW SCHEDULED TO HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT JUNE 14. WASHINGTON HAS GIVEN US AN EXCELLENT SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR THE STUDY, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH WE ARE CIRCULATING JUNE 13 TO PROVIDE A FOCUS FOR INITIAL SPC DISCUSSION. WE EXPECT OTHER DELEGATIONS WILL ATTEMPT TO MODIFY SLIGHTLY OUR PROPOSED OUTLINE, BUT HOPE THE SPC CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON AN OUTLINE DURING ITS FIRST FEW MEETINGS. IN A FEW WEEKS WE EXPECT THE SPC TO REPORT TO THE NAC ON ITS INITIAL EFFORTS.

B) PROGRESS ON DEFENSE INITIATIVES.

AT THE OTTAWA NPG, ASD(ISA) MCGIFFERT QUESTIONED LEGERE ABOUT THE PACE AT WHICH NATO HAS BEEN MOVING ON THE LONG-TERM PLANNING INITIATIVES, AND STATE 134693 DTG102146Z JUN ON THE SUBJECT "LONG-RANGE DEFENSE PROGRAMS" ALSO CONVEYS A FLAVOR OF WASHINGTON'S APPARENT IMPATIENCE WITH NATO'S ALLEGED SLUGGISHNESS. WE STRONGLY SUSPECT THAT KOMER IS BEHIND THESE EXPRESSIONS OF IMPATIENCE, AND HAVE ADVISED MCGIFFERT PRIVATELY, AS LEGERE DID AT OTTAWA, HOW BRISKLY AND EFFECTIVELY NATO HAS BEEN MOVING, THANKS IN LARGE PART TO THE PERSUASION THE MISSION ALREADY HAS BROUGHT TO BEAR THROUGH THE INFORMAL AND FORMAL COORDINATION AND VISITS YOU AS WELL AS OTHERS IN THE MISSION HAVE CONDUCTED WITH LUNS, PANS, MUMFORD, AND NATIONAL DELEGATIONS. WE SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT YOU POINT OUT TO BOTH MCGIFFERT AND KOMER, NEITHER OF WHOM IS STEEPED IN NATO'S ORGANIZATION AND PROCESSES, THAT DOING BUSINESS WITH A DOZEN SOVEREIGN NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL STAFFS IS AT BEST TOUGH GOING, AND THAT TOO MUCH PRESSURE PREMATURELY CAN BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. WHILE WE ALWAYS HAVE WELCOMED A DIALOGUE ON TACTICS, THEY SHOULD NOT NOW TRY TO CALL ALL THE TACTICAL SHOTS FROM WASHINGTON. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE RECALL THAT WASHINGTON DID NOT ACCEPT OUR SUGGESTION THAT EMBASSIES PUT PRESSURE ON APPROPRIATE LEVELS IN CAPITALS PRIOR TO THE DPC DISCUSSION OF LUNS' P.O. THAT WOULD ALSO HAVE SERVED TO PUT CAPITALS ON NOTICE OF US INTEREST. MATTERS SEEM TO US TO BE GOING VERY WELL, WITHOUT YET IMPOSING ARTIFICIAL DEADLINES THAT, IF NOT MET, COULD TAKE THE WIND OUT OF THE
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EFFORT'S SAILS. ALSO, WHILE A REINFORCED EWG MEETING IN MID-JULY MAY BE A GOOD IDEA, WE WILL WANT TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO TURN IT INTO A SESSION WHERE WE HARANGUE THE ALLIES JUST AS THE EFFORT IS REALLY GETTING OFF THE GROUND.

C. PROGNOSIS FOR INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP(IEPG). WE BELIEVE THAT LONDON 9608 SUGGESTING A NEAR-TERM IEPG DIALOGUE WITH THE US IS OVERLY SANGUINE. REPORTING INDICATES STRONG IEPG DIFFICULTIES WITH THE FRENCH, WHO MAY YET KILL ANY SIGNIFICANT EARLY EUROPEAN RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S SUMMIT INITIATIVE ON STANDARDIZATION. SUCH REPORTING ILLUSTRATES THAT THE US CAN DO RELATIVELY LITTLE NOW TO AFFECT PROGRESS ON STANDARDIZATION/INTEROPERABILITY AND THAT THE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO THE EUROPEANS, A POINT YOU MAY WISH TO REINFORCE WITH HENRY OWEN IN A MEETING WE UNDERSTAND IS BEING SCHEDULED WITH YOU. MEANWHILE, WE WILL BE STRESSING IN CONNECTION WITH THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE STUDIES, POSSIBILITIES UNDER EACH RUBRIC FOR ENHANCING PROGRESS TOWARD STANDARDIZATION, AS CALLED FOR IN LUNS' P.O.

D. MINISTERIAL PRESS CONFERENCES.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE POST NPG MINISTERIAL PRESS CONFERENCE BY SYG LUNS, WHO CONFUSED SEVERAL ISSUES, ILLUSTRATE THE NEED FOR SENIOR US REPRESENTATIVES ALSO TO SCHEDULE PRESS CONFERENCES AFTER MINISTERIAL GATHERINGS. DURING DISCUSSIONS YOU MAY HAVE IN DEFENSE AND STATE, YOU MIGHT WISH TO REINFORCE THIS POINT. STREATOR

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